

Public Works Committee Meeting

April 28, 2016

Minutes

Called to Order: @4:30 p.m. by Trustee Harold Barry

Present: Mayor Ron Gunter, Clerk Jinny Szymiski, Trustee Bruce Barker, Trustee Linda Liddle, Trustee Jim Addington, Trustee Harold Barry, Trustee Steve Nero, Village Manager Steve May, Finance Director Spencer Parker, Public Works Director Mike Ramsey, Village Engineer Noriel Noriega, Public Works Supervisor Jim Cates, Police Chief Tom Mulhearn, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Riley, Deputy Fire Chief Jim Connelly, ComEd representative Mike Foster, and ComEd representative Craig Freeman.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 2/18/2016 were approved.

New Business:

- A. ComEd representatives were at the meeting to present to the committee the Grid Modernization Initiative which is converting all outside meters to wireless reads. Craig Freeman spoke to the Committee about the program. The new meter reading will be a radio read which allows for operational savings such as theft detection, no meter reading, instant meter verification for power outages. The trucks are going to direct problem areas instead of rolling out waiting for reports from customers. There will be a ninety day notification bill insert along with a sixty day mailer, and a thirty day notification. A door hanger will be put on the doors when the installers put on the new meter. If the meter is outside, the process takes about ten minutes and power may go out for a brief outage during the exchange. Public Works Director Ramsey asked how many meters were inside and it is a small percentage. There is a charge for any individuals that refuse the meter at twenty one dollars per month. By law, at the end of the project, all meters will need to be exchanged which is described in the mailers. The install process takes into considerations for backup generators. There are programs to alert customers of high peak cost times for the customer to be aware and utilize less energy during those times. Deputy Chief Steve Riley was concerned with the wiring for older meters and if there would need to be upgrades. For this project, ComEd has hired electricians to double check and fix any minor wiring issues during install. Deputy Riley asked about shutting power down during emergencies and de-energizing service. The service can be disconnected remotely from the meter. Manager Steve May introduced Mike Foster who has inherited the territory and is the external affairs contact for the Village.
- B. The East Richmond water main project is beginning phase one. The bid opening will be May 10th, with hope to start by Memorial Day. Phase one is from Quincy St. up to Richmond Ave and over to Wilmette Ave. along Richmond St. Clarendon Hills is currently repaving Richmond Ave. so the project should be done by August. Sewer work will be completed with this also. The road will not be resurfaced until next year with the MFT project.
- C. The next committee meeting date needs to be changed due to conflict with the Taste of Westmont. There is a possibility to change the date to the following week after the Taste and change location.

Unfinished Business:

- A. There will be an intergovernmental agreement made with Darien for taking over Suffield Gardens water main. The work will be done in-house with engineering done from an outside firm to design it. New meters will be installed and eventually the fire hydrants will be replaced. This summer the work should begin. The management company was contacted for the meter exchange. The bills will come now from the Village of Westmont which has lower rates than Darien currently. There will be about a five year cost recapture time frame.
- B. Finance Director Parker discussed the water rates with the committee. Water rates will not be changed with the fiscal year due to short notice and it is proposed to change the rates in September. Director Ramsey stated this will give two billing cycles with the new rate.
- C. Public Works Supervisor Jim Cates showed the committee the new headsets that the crews are using at the Depot. The range is about 3200 feet. This allows for effective communication while on the platform. Also with valving down water over a few blocks, communication becomes easier. There are five different channels to be used.

Reports:

Chairperson:

1. Nothing at this time.

Public Works Director:

1. Director Ramsey has started working with an engineering firm for a Public Works Needs Assessment. The company is coming up with a proposal for the Needs Assessment to move forward with the project. There will be facility visits to other towns as well. Trustee Barker noted to look at the financing side for a new facility now because the status of the current Public Works buildings, which will not last another fifteen years.
2. The CBD alley project is still in design at about 75%. Currently, the Village is coordinating with Downers Grove Sanitary as they are putting in new lines. Westmont will complete restoration. Construction should begin after the Taste of Westmont with the bid process at the end of May or early June. There are issues with the precast pieces due to lining up on the private sides of the alleys. With precast, the private side elevations will not work. The down time with precast is about one week. If the precast is poured in place, there is about a down time of three weeks. Trustee Barry asked about drainage to the center line. The option is to put the panels in the center with the outsides being concrete. There would be storm sewers installed with this project on the sides as the sanitary line runs down the center. The alleys will be out of service for about four weeks. There are concerns over grading issues. Also the alley would be designed accordingly for the heavy traffic of trucks. Jim Budrick, a resident who worked for Oak Park, stated Oak Park is currently putting in about 30 pervious alleys. Oak Park puts down the brick pavers with pervious in the last five or six years. The brick was very successful yet more expensive. Public Works Foreman Yeater discussed the maintenance and safety of the pervious concrete roadway. The plowing was done with a rubber blade that caked the snow down and caused ice pack on the road. Chemicals and salt can not be used. A steel plow can be used but that would be damaging to the roadway.
3. There will be storm drain stenciling on May 7th. There are forty volunteers that will be painting the roads and fish medallions will be put on curbs for storm sewer awareness.

Street Division:

1. The Village is celebrating its twentieth year with Tree City USA. In honor of this, twenty trees will be planted amongst all schools in Westmont for Arbor Day. Three schools out of seven have been completed to date.
2. Ninety sewer locations have been repaired with the spring MFT resurfacing contract. Instead of the normal two to three miles per MFT season, there are ten miles being completed. This makes for extensive sewer repairs to be completed in house.
3. Salt usage this year was lower due to weather. The average use is fifteen hundred per year and this year about six hundred was used. Director Ramsey stated the Village was going through Dupage County for salt as well as the state. There was concern from the IEPA regarding chloride levels in streams in the past and attributes part of the problem to salt runoff from winter salt usage. There will be a change to cut back in salt usage. Currently in stock there are 2000 tons of salt. Next year there will be a minimal purchase. The order this year will be for 600 tons from both the county and the state.
4. The Community Development Department requested from Foreman Yeater to plant trees along 63rd St. and Cass Ave. This is done through permitting with the county. Foreman Yeater would like to push for more tree plantings along county right of ways at the Village's expense.

Water Division:

1. ACE 2016 will be held in Chicago at McCormick place. Westmont will be volunteering to help with all the competitions and initial setup. The conference will be free for all employees due to this. There will be a tapping competitions throughout the week and on Sunday there will be a demo on hydrant hysteria at the Water Tower Place. The Village will be hosting representatives from the Netherlands also.
2. The water meter change out program is at about 75% complete for residents and about 37% complete for commercial meters. The total complete is about 4400 out of 5800.

Facilities Maintenance:

1. The generator at Fire Department headquarters is no longer working or repairable. There will be a transfer switch installed for a temporary generator hookup. That purchase order will be presented at the board meeting this evening. An electrician has been hired to check for the load capacity. The vendor will need to be out of town due to the size of the generator. There are not vendors in town that handle the capacity of the generator.
2. The Centre Building will be repaired from the flooding. There are purchase orders for the board meeting tonight to get the necessary repairs completed.

Engineering Division:

1. The 2016 Spring Resurfacing started this past Monday with K-Five starting on the south side of town working to the north. Due to school still in session, 59th St. is on hold until school is out. There are a total of 10 miles being done for this project.
2. Trustee Barker asked about sidewalk replacement program. There were not any awards for grant funding. The only major sidewalks replaced coincide with the MFT resurfacing program. Trustee Barker has concern for an area in front of Neat restaurant which Noriel noted.

Meeting motioned to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. by Trustee Jim Addington, seconded by Trustee Linda Liddle.